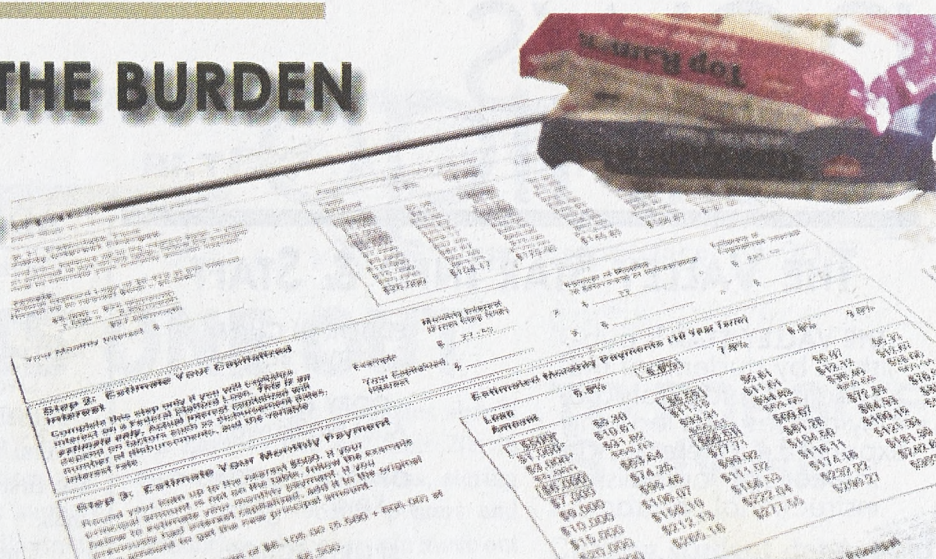


EASING THE BURDEN

CONTRASTING
PLANS
SHOW DIFFERENT
PRIORITIES
REGARDING
STUDENT DEBT.

SEE
PAGE 3



lavalleystar.com

September 19, 2012

Volume 77 Issue 2



HEAT WAVE - It was a tough weekend for the women's water polo team, as it had more to focus on than just the 108-degree temperature. The team went one for one this past Saturday during Valley College's Mini Tournament. The Monarchs entered the game against Pierce College with an undefeated record of 2-0. The visiting Brahmas were ruthless toward the Valley defense as they scored 9 goals to the Monarchs' 6. Valley redeemed itself against Santa Monica College, defeating them in a close game 7-6.

MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR

NEW FACES
ON CAMPUS

Six new faculty members have been added to the team, but hiring restrictions are still in place.

JENNA BUMGARDNER
STAFF WRITER

With the start of the new semester, there are many new faces around campus. Valley College welcomed six new full-time faculty members this fall, but the school still has about 60 fewer full-time faculty members than it did before hiring restrictions were implemented four years ago.

The new all-female staff members were formally introduced to the faculty on Aug. 29. Some of these women, however, aren't really new to Valley. Three worked here previously—some for as long as 15 years—like Joyce Romero in the Counseling Department.

"I'm ecstatic," said Romero. "I'm still celebrating. [I have] more time to focus on career counseling."

This is Romero's first year as a full-time counselor, but she previously worked at the school on a substitute basis as an international

[See ADDITIONS, Page 2]

VALLEY LIBRARY, DISTRICT PRINTING CONTRACT
NEGOTIATION LEAVES STUDENTS SEARCHING

Students who print on campus should use an alternative to the Library and Academic Resource Center.

COURTNEY BASSLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Students wanting to copy or print at the Library and Academic Resource Center should look for a new location for the next couple weeks.

Since the beginning of the semester, the library has not been able to print due to a con-

tract lapse with Quality Copying Inc. and Valley College's Library Department.

"The issue is simply that the library did not renew the original agreement," Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer explained. "Each department is responsible for managing its contracts for services."

The machines on campus were brought to the attention of the Los Angeles Community College District through in-house counseling, according to LACCD Contracts and Purchasing Manager James Watson.

"Our office had no idea that the equipment was on the campus,"

said Watson. "The Library doesn't have the authority."

According to Library Department Chair and Director of Library Services Georgianna Sampler, Valley had an old contract with Quality Copying.

The new contract will be with Quality Copying again, according to Jacobsmeyer.

According to Watson, the new contract is a short-term agreement with Quality Copying, allowing them to be on campus while a long-term contract goes to bid. All bids must go through district approval, and the decision on the contract is scheduled for the Oct. 3 Board of Trustees agenda.

The short-term agreement—if approved by the Board of Trustees—will span four months, according to Quality Copying President Phil Goodrich. He also explained that the company offers its machines to the campus for free and gives back to the campus 15 percent of the revenue from what students pay to print.

"It's absolutely no cost to district and college," he said, "not a nickel for our services."

Students were made aware that they could not copy at the library with signs posted explaining that there was a "contract dispute."

"Everybody knows that they are having a contract dispute with

the district and the vendor," said cinema and television arts major Alberto Santillan after searching an hour for a computer lab on campus to print a homework assignment.

There is no dispute, however, according to Jacobsmeyer.

"The contract lapsed. It was not changed," he explained. "The District Contracts office became aware that the contract had not been renewed and notified the college that the copiers could not be used until a new contract was completed."

According to Goodrich, the contract with the library was imple-

[See CONTRACT, Page 2]

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



AUSTRA PERFORMS

The Valley Star reviews the concert at the El Rey.



These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

VP DAAR
WELCOMED
HOME

Vice President of Academic Affairs Karen Daar feels right at home with her new position.

SANDRA SAY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Before assuming her role as Valley College's vice president of Academic Affairs and chief instructional officer, Karen Daar was and remains a self-proclaimed valley girl whose new position is allowing her to serve the community that saw her grow.

"I'm very excited to be here because I feel like I have come back home," Daar said. "I used to bike ride in the valley all the time when I was a kid. I learned how to swim here, and I had gymnastic classes in the valley as well."

Prior to taking over some

[See DAAR, Page 2]



DIANA ORTEGA, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

WELCOME BACK - Karen Daar, the new vice president of Academic Affairs, commented on how it feels good to be back at Valley College, after attending Valley and Grant High School.

ENROLLMENT SEES FLUCTUATION

Departments notice an amalgam of empty seats and too-filled classes this new semester.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

Seemingly polar opposite classroom sizes mark classes this fall semester as departments and students cope with more budget cuts, the new three-strike rule and the tuition increase from \$36 to \$46 per unit.

According to Florentino Manzano, the dean of enrollment management, the student enrollment at Valley College as of Sept. 10 measures at 18,731 students compared to 18,828 a year ago.

This slight drop in overall enrollment, however, has not been enough to faze the tension departments are still feeling as the continual influx of students attempting to add classes overwhelms many classrooms.

"In [almost all] our classes, everyone had really long add

lists," said Sociology/Ethnic Studies Department Chair Tiffany Lanoix. "In socio 1, I had about 65 students trying to add [and] ended up being able to add 12."

She noticed, however, that in sociology 11, a race and ethnicity course, numerous registered students didn't show, suggesting there are many students who add classes and crash other courses simultaneously. According to Lanoix, these students then keep the classes they prefer and drop those that don't interest them, creating problems for students who are trying to add a class they genuinely need or want but are not able to get. This leaves classes with empty seats that could have been filled by those who need them.

Another department, the Foreign Language Department, also felt the pressure of a high number of students attempting to add classes this fall, especially since some courses in the department either were downgraded from a semester status to a yearly class or cut entirely.

"We currently offer far

fewer sections than before," said Foreign Language Department Chair June Miyasaki, who attributed the course loss to budget cuts. "We used to have ... about 400 students divided over 10 to 11 sections of Spanish 1, yielding 35 to 40 students per class. We're now seeing upwards of 50 to 60 students trying to get in at the beginning of the semester, but that's partly because we have fewer sections."

Miyasaki suspects the number of students her department has turned down this semester is about 60 to 100. With all the changes taking effect lately, it's hard for departments to provide the ideal education they would otherwise like to give students.

"In foreign languages, larger class sizes also tend to contribute to lower success rates," Miyasaki said. "Ours are highly participatory courses that require heavy interaction between teacher and student; it's the only way to really learn or teach a language."

Without being able to provide

[See ENROLLMENT, Page 2]

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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ADDITIONS

Continued from page 1

student and career/technical education counselor.

Over the past 10 years, the Counseling Department has seen several retirements, and Romero is the first counselor to be hired since then.

Cheryl Pearson replaced Salvador Santana as a full-time instructor and director of clinical education for the respiratory therapy program. Before this position, Pearson worked as an adjunct professor in her department. She is currently teaching three respiratory therapy classes on campus.

"I love to teach. I love my students," said Pearson. "It's the 'aha' moments that I live for."

The psychology department welcomed Minna Ng to its team as assistant professor of psychology. Ng got her start at Kingsborough Community College in her hometown of Brooklyn. Before being hired at Valley, she worked at Notre Dame de Namur University and at UCSD and two colleges in the San Diego Community College District.

Ng said working at Valley is her dream job. "I feel like I've come full circle to a place of great beginnings," she said.

Erika Brockmann is a fresh face in the biology department. She got

her foot in the door as a life science laboratory technician at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. For the past six years, she has been teaching biology at L.A. Trade-Tech.

Brockmann is very excited to be able to devote her full attention to teaching instead of dividing it between being a lab technician and a teacher at L.A. Trade-Tech.

"I'm so excited to be chosen by Valley," said Pearson. "I feel like I've reached my career goal."

Preethamol Puthiakunnel has been working as a part-time nursing instructor since 2009. This semester, she has replaced retiree Kathy Snider as a full-time instructor for her fourth semester in nursing. Puthiakunnel teaches nursing science 112, care of children and family.

Her passion for teaching is what made her accept the full time position.

"The most exciting part of the job is classroom teaching and transferring that knowledge to [a] clinical setting so that students will be able to take care of clients and families from birth to adolescence," said Puthiakunnel.

Jennifer Read joined the theater arts department this semester and is already teaching six of the 15 theater classes offered on campus.

Read is new to the campus and to the area. So far, she has been enjoying getting to know her students



ANTWONE MERCER AND MORRIS DE LA ROCA | VALLEY STAR
READY TO SERVE - The six all-female faculty members are happy to serve the Valley College community.

and the area.

"Students are what motivate me," said Read. "[They are] what get me out of bed in the morning."

Valley President Sue Carleo is grateful to have new energy on campus with the new additions.

"It is always a great feeling when we are able to add to the ranks of our faculty," said Carleo.

However, Valley is still understaffed and will continue to maintain hiring restrictions. "Should the Prop. 30 tax initiative fail in the November election, we will be in an even greater crisis due to our shortage of staff and faculty in all areas of the campus," said Carleo.

ENROLLMENT

Continued from page 1

each student individual teacher-student time for punctuation and intonation practice, Miyasaki thinks the students are being shortchanged of their education.

"In a 50-minute class, even

with an ideal class size of 15, each student gets 3.3 minutes of total interaction with the instructor," she said. "So, with an average class size of 45 as things stand now, each student gets barely a minute apiece. That's hardly ideal."

CONTRACT

Continued from page 1

mented quite some time ago.

"It's hard to say [how long] we have been working [with Valley]," said Goodrich. "It's been a handshake agreement for many years."

According to Goodrich, if

Quality Copying did not receive a 30-day written notice from the library discontinuing the company's services, then the contract was automatically extended.

Valley students are certainly frustrated with not being able to print and copy at the library.

"I don't have a printer at home, so I come [to the library] to print,"

said business management major Ines Salazar. "It's kind of silly because they have a new facility. I do all of my work here at the library. I would want to print right away."

Since the Library and Academic Resource Center also houses other facilities, it has been stressful for them as well.

"It's been a major effect on us,"

said Jose Cancino, an instructional assistant with the Writing Center. "All of the students that need tutoring need to print essays."

Computer labs across campus have reported an influx of students looking for a place to print.

"[The district] does understand that this is inconveniencing students," said the LACCD's Watson.

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DAAR

Continued from page 1

positions at Valley, Daar worked as dean of Academic Affairs at East Los Angeles College. She started as an anthropology instructor nearly 13 years ago with a bachelor's degree from CSUN and a master's from the University of New Mexico.

After being a professor for eight years, Daar became the dean of Academic Affairs at East L.A. According to Daar, she was very much involved in faculty leadership, which moved her into becoming a dean. With that experience, she moved onto Valley.

"So far, I've had a wonderful experience, and I've very much enjoyed my interactions with the faculty," she said. "I've had nice interactions from the students of

this campus as well."

With her new position at Valley, Daar's main concern for the future is students' success. Along with the deans of Academic Affairs, she is working on making classes that are available for students a priority despite dealing with a limited budget.

"It's my job to work as well as I can with everybody else on campus to make sure that we are offering quality programs as well as we can to our students," she added.

Daar's upcoming projects, such as collaborating with the Associated Student Union to get Valley students involved on campus, have the support of Valley President Sue Carleo.

"Valley College is very fortunate to have Karen Daar join us as vice president of Academic

Affairs," Carleo said. "She brings expertise in planning and evaluation that will help us move through our next planning cycle as we update our educational master plan."

Since Daar is a valley girl at heart and even attended the campus's neighboring school, Grant High School, her new job makes her feel more connected with her community, adding to her passion to serve the Monarchs community.

"It's fun to wake up in the morning and be excited about going to campus," Daar said. "No matter what the day is going to be like, I know I'm going to have something interesting to do, and I know I'm going to have something that I feel really passionate about."

VALLEY COLLEGE'S NEW WRITING CENTER NOW OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

The new Writing Center offers several services to students for free.

ASHLEY GOOSSEN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students seeking help with papers, grammar or even college application essays can look to the new Writing Center lab, which has been relocated to the Library and Academic Resource Center.

The Writing Center offers support for those who are seeking help with writing or reading and much more. The center is a resource for the student body for any subject involving writing that offers workshops and tutoring at no cost, the only requirement being a Valley student ID.

"[The Writing Center] is a tutoring lab for writing for any class during all stages of the writing process,"

said Writing Center Director Scott Weigand. "[The tutors] are available to read, review and assist with any type of essay or paper."

The center offers many types of valuable resources to students, including instructional handouts; computer lab courses for English 67, 68 and 69; free workshops and online tutoring.

"[Tutoring sessions] are one on one [between the student and tutor] and are held in 30-minute sessions," said Weigand.

However, students seeking guidance in a less-personal group setting can find their needs met by attending one of the 18 free workshops that are available now through Nov. 29. For those who cannot attend the workshops, they are also available on the Writing Center's website.

Some of the other services the Writing Center lab offers include direction with personal statements, scholarship essays, résumés, speeches and PowerPoint presentations.

Students seeking help with word

processing, MLA or APA format, grammar, punctuation, mechanics or study skills can also find assistance at the free-of-charge center.

"It's really helpful to have a free writing tutoring lab available for every student on campus," said administration of justice major Glenda Fernandez.

By using the ETUDES website—the same system used for Valley's online classes—students who are unable to visit the Writing Center on campus can enroll for free and receive guidance during the writing process.

The Writing Center tutoring lab is open Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as well as Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m.

For more information on the Writing Center along with a list of workshop dates and times and downloadable tools, visit www.lavc.edu/writingcenter.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff or students.

CUTTING TO THE BONE...

YOUNG VOTERS SHOULD NOT SIT THIS ONE OUT

The youth vote risks its future by staying away from the polls.

ASHLEY GOOSSEN
STAFF WRITER

With the election swiftly approaching and youth voting percentages at an all-time low, it is vital that students and young adults become more aware of what is going on this election season.

As time goes on, students and young adults seem to care less about current events and politics, not realizing that the decisions

that are made today will directly impact their futures.

According to a Gallup poll taken this June, only 58 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds said that they intend to vote this November. This number is considerably lower than the 78 percent of young adults who, according to Gallup, voted in the 2008 election or the 81 percent who came out to the polls in the 2004 election.

In regards to issues such as budget cuts and unemployment, President Barack Obama is planning to expand educational systems while his opponent, Mitt Romney, supports budget-cutting plans and intends to continue sending jobs

overseas.

With so much to lose, students should be more eager to take a stand against the injustice that can and will be done if power is put in the wrong hands.

The blatant disregard for this country's future is absurd and becoming overwhelming.

With such a lack of concern for the election amongst the youth, it is essential that the two presidential candidates reach out to young voters.

According to Heather Smith, the president of Rock the Vote, a group committed to urging young people to get out and vote, "2008 was the year of the youth vote."

Young voters were one of the main factors in President Obama winning the 2008 election, but "now, polls indicate that support for the president, while still strong among young people, has waned [since 2008]," said NPR.

With Obama being the clear favorite among the youth in 2008, it seems that the campaign of Republican challenger Mitt Romney is trying to win over some of the youth votes with its selection of vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan.

According to Fox News, during his speech at the Republican National Convention, Ryan made a direct address to all young voters,

saying, "College graduates should not have to live out their 20s in their childhood bedrooms, staring up at fading Obama posters and wondering when they can move out and get going with life."

Youth voters can make a huge difference in an election; this proved to be the case in 2008.

"For the first time since he began running for president," reported the Washington Examiner, "Republican Mitt Romney has the support of [more than] 40 percent of America's youth vote."

For the Obama campaign, which greatly relied on the support of young, optimistic voters, this can only mean trouble.

TO FORGIVE IS DIVINE

Cutting student debt could kick-start the economy.

KEVIN JERSEY

American history is a story of forward progress. Each generation works to make life a little better for the next. But, that is no longer the case. There are now policies in place that are actively working to keep the younger generation from succeeding.

Austerity measures, at both the state and federal level, have made public education unbearably expensive. CNN reports that the average public university increased its tuition by 8.3 percent in 2010 alone, and recent estimates place total student debt at more than \$1 trillion.

In an election year, both major political parties have formulated plans they say will pull the country out of its economic doldrums. The stark difference between these plans reinforces the importance of this election for students, who bear the brunt of the slow economic recovery. They face increasing tuition and decreasing job prospects, and many are forced to take out costly loans to pay for their education, accumulating debt they later struggle to repay.

The Democratic platform proposes offering incentives to schools to decrease tuition, doubling investment in Pell Grants—which give students money for school that does not have to be repaid—creating a tax credit for families with students in college and, perhaps most importantly, tying loan repayment to income. This would ensure that recent graduates would not be forced to pay more than 10 percent of their income toward their student loans, as long as those loans were issued through federal programs. Rep. Hansen Clarke, D-Mich., goes even further, introducing a bill that would forgive outstanding student debt after 10 years of payment.

These plans free students from the burden of oppressively high loan payments, allowing them to spend on necessities like food, clothing and shelter. Even the Wall Street Journal—traditionally a backer of conservative economic policies—suggests that lowering student loan payments or forgiving debts would give graduates more expendable income and help stimulate the economy.

Contrast this with the Republican platform that would cut Pell Grants and privatize student loans, disqualifying students for income-based repayment plans. This means that their payments would be subject to the whims of private banks and have no relation to their income or ability to make payments.

Instead of encouraging schools to lower tuition, Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney suggested that students "shop around" to find schools they could afford. He also said students should consider for-profit schools, but failed to mention that these schools offer significantly lower graduation rates and job placement than public or private universities, or that many for-profit schools have made large donations to Republican campaigns.

This plan does nothing to lessen the financial burden on students and instead makes it easier for banks to profit off of young Americans who are simply trying to get an education and make a better life for themselves.

For the economy to truly recover, people must be free to make money and spend money. Students with unfairly oppressive debt lack this freedom, and both they and the economy itself are suffering.

E-mail Kevin Jersey at opinion@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleyweek@lavalleystar.com.

DECONSTRUCTING THE CONSTRUCTION

Money spent on construction would have been better spent on students and teachers.

RICHARD ROSSI
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

There is a Jerry Lewis movie called "Hook, Line, and Sinker" in which Lewis' doctor tells him that he is dying. He goes on a \$100,000 spending spree, traveling the world and maxing out credit cards. Now that the construction moratorium has been lifted, Valley College is spending money like Lewis, building on a campus that has cut classes, raised tuition, eliminated the summer semester and underpays teachers.

A construction adage says it always takes longer and costs more than estimates. The L.A. Times revealed the district's construction was steeped in a mire of fraud, nepotism and shoddy work.

Contractors sued because their contracts were delayed or cancelled, according to Eloy Retamal, the project director at Yang Management, the company managing "reVitalizing Valley College."

People are more important than property. But, money earmarked for construction cannot be used to add courses or employ teachers. It's like buying a \$300 pair of Nikes for someone who is having his foot amputated.



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

MISPLACED PRIORITIES - Students see the benefits of new construction but feel the pinch of budget cuts elsewhere.

Students lined up with add slips, trying to shoehorn their way into classes. According to an L.A. Times survey of California's two-year colleges, more than 470,000 students began the fall semester on waiting lists, unable to get needed courses. The California Community Colleges System, the country's largest, has suffered

\$809 million in funding cuts.

There is a twist ending to the movie. Lewis discovers he is not dying. The doctor is having an affair with Lewis' wife. They made up Lewis' death sentence to get rid of him. The \$100,000 bill came due.

Like Jerry, Valley will have to pay the piper. "The LACCD hired

10 attorneys, just to deal with the lawsuits," Retamal said. He predicts additional costs once the projects pass the 2015 deadline.

The handwriting is on the wall. Affordable education at Valley will be a memory. The old days are gone when students could get into any class they wanted with a click of a mouse.

Some counter that Valley's budget is determined by the state. Valley can't control the amount dedicated to construction, and it has no relation to funding for classes. Splitting hairs over culpability is a distraction from the philosophical issue: the community of students and teachers are the best assets on campus. Without them, the buildings are empty shells.

Even with no direct relation between construction spending and state budget cuts, it must be decided what is most important: property or people. The building campaign is called "reVitalizing Valley College." "Vitalize" means "to endow with vitality [or] animate," according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. It is specific to living things like people, not objects like brick and mortar. If the amount spent on construction were spent on keeping summer classes, hiring teachers and giving existing teachers a raise, Valley truly would be revitalized.

The buildings are pretty, but they are built on the corpses of students who never had a chance. The construction network is in bed with the state to get building contracts, and they are doing to the students what the doctor was doing to Lewis' wife.

Students should vote for political candidates who oppose cutting education and take classes at Valley before the costs grow higher than the roof of the new library.

CUTTING THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

Student newspapers serve an essential role on campuses but are falling victim to budget cuts.

STAFF EDITORIAL

California schools have trimmed every bit of excess fat from their budgets. But, with the perpetual cuts to funding, higher education is now forced to trim even further. Each class that is cut is like losing a limb from a body already starved and weakened.

But, eliminating a school's stu-

dent newspaper is like cutting out its eyes and ears, and something even more important: its voice.

Journalism may be an elective class to many, but it is a necessity to the student body. It is the student newspaper that holds the administration accountable and keeps the students informed. Like any newspaper, it celebrates successes and critiques failures. Student newspapers are a vital element to the student experience, and to be without them would make student education incomplete.

Yet, despite this, some schools have eliminated their student newspapers and journalism programs, including San Jose City College,

San Mateo College and Antelope Valley College. Other schools, such as Pierce College, have eliminated their print edition, moving their reporting solely online.

These schools may have thought they were acting in the best interest of their students, cutting unnecessary programs so that they would be able to avoid cuts elsewhere, but they were mistaken. Eliminating such a vital element of the educational experience hurts everyone, from the students to the staff to the administration itself.

Student journalism, however, is not dead. In fact, UC Berkeley is one school that has found a way to help keep its more than 100-year-

old daily newspaper alive.

In April 2012, the Daily California printed an issue with a blank front page, a symbolic reminder of the paper's essential role in spreading knowledge and reminding students what they would be missing if the paper were eliminated.

This was coupled with an initiative asking students to approve a fee increase of \$2 per semester to fund the paper and ensure that this important voice would not be silenced.

By approving this initiative, UC students validated the newspaper's place within their college experience.

VALLEY VIEW | WHY DO COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS MATTER TO STUDENTS?



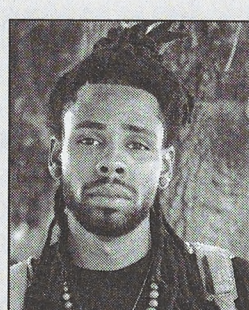
"It informs students what's going on locally. People who don't hang around campus don't really know what's going on here."
-VAUGHN BOATNER, KINESIOLOGY



"If you're not aware of your community issues, you can find out information from your college newspaper."
-AURA CHAVEZ, UNDECIDED



"I don't read the newspaper. You rarely see them in the cubicles."
-JAMELIA THOMAS, ENGLISH



"The paper is important because it acts as a liaison between administration and the student population."
-DEWITT WASHINGTON, BUSINESS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to editorinchief@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com.

Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

September Wednesday, 19

1 to 2 p.m.
Steve Armour Jazz Quintet Concert
LAVC Faculty/ Alumni Variety Show
Music Instrumental Room
Free
Concert Hotline:
818-778-5633

Thursday, 20

4 to 8 p.m.
YESS Program Life Skills Class
Faculty Lounge
Concert Hotline:
818-947-2401

Friday, 21

7 to 9 p.m.
Self-Help Valley Group for Adults with Epilepsy
Faculty Lounge
Parking in Lot B
310-670-2870

8 to 9 p.m.

Astronomy Group Planetarium Show
Planetarium
Parking in Lot A
818-947-2864
www.lavcastrogroup.org

Saturday, 22

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
IDEAS Workshop
TV Studio
310-670-2870
www.lavc.edu/ideas

Monday, 24

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Blood Mobile will be located outside the Allied Health and Sciences Center
818-307-1743
www.redcrossblood.org
(sponsor code: LAVC)

Tuesday, 25

3 to 5 p.m.
ASU Executive Committee Meeting
Campus Center, 104
818-778-5516
www.lavc.edu/ASU/index.html

! THINK TRANSFER

September Wednesday, 19

CSULA Admissions Representative
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Admissions, 126

Thursday, 20

UC Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) Workshop
10 to 11 a.m.
Library & Academic Resource Center, 200

UC Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) Workshop
2 to 3 p.m.
Library & Academic Resource Center, 200

Monday, 24

UCLA Admissions Representative
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Admissions, 126

Tuesday, 25

UC Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) Workshop
2 to 3:30 p.m.
Library & Academic Resource Center, 200

Thursday, 27

UC Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) Workshop
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Library & Academic Resource Center, 200

Sunday, 30

UC Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) Submission Deadline

All events held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

For Sign-up and further information
Call (818) 947-2646.

THE ART OF REINTERPRETATION

One art instructor absconds the borders of Valley College and is featured in a group show at the Chinese American Museum.

SANYO HAZEL
STAFF WRITER

Valley College instructor, artist and co-curator Phung Huynh reveals the art of reinterpretation through a group show, "(de) Constructing Chinatown," which is on exhibit at the Chinese American Museum in Downtown Los Angeles until Oct. 28, along with organizing the upcoming show at the LAVC Art Gallery.

Huynh is an assistant professor of art at Valley College and teaches art history, beginning drawing, life drawing, oil painting, beginning two-dimensional design and directed studies, after submitting her work to a juror panel. She was chosen for the museum's show as a featured artist.

"When ... faculty members like Phung are included in noteworthy exhibitions, such as this one, it rightfully brings recognition to the college and its excellent faculty," said Arts Dean Dennis Reed.

She has several paintings featured in this show, portraying these cultural images. One of them is the Chinese zodiac.

"My Chinese zodiac paintings represent an attempt to both break down and blend both cultures by reinterpreting auspicious images of Chinese culture," said Huynh.



CHINESE CULTURE - The Chinese American Museum in Downtown L.A. features historic artifacts and is the last remaining structure of the original Chinatown. FATIMA JIMENEZ | VALLEY STAR

Huynh, who has a bachelor's degree from Art Center College of Design in Illustration and a master's degree from New York University in Studio Art, used her background creating some mischievous imagery.

"In her paintings, she playfully juggles cultural stereotypes while skillfully creating colorful, complex artworks that are visually striking," said Reed.

"The God of Longevity," another image of Chinese culture

ripe with symbolism, does not escape Huynh's reinterpretation.

"The God of Longevity holds a peach, which in the Chinese culture represents longevity," she said. "In the Western world, the peach represents a woman's vagina. His head is large, so I designed that to look like a penis. I wanted to blend the two belief systems in one piece of art to reflect how differently two cultures can perceive the same object."

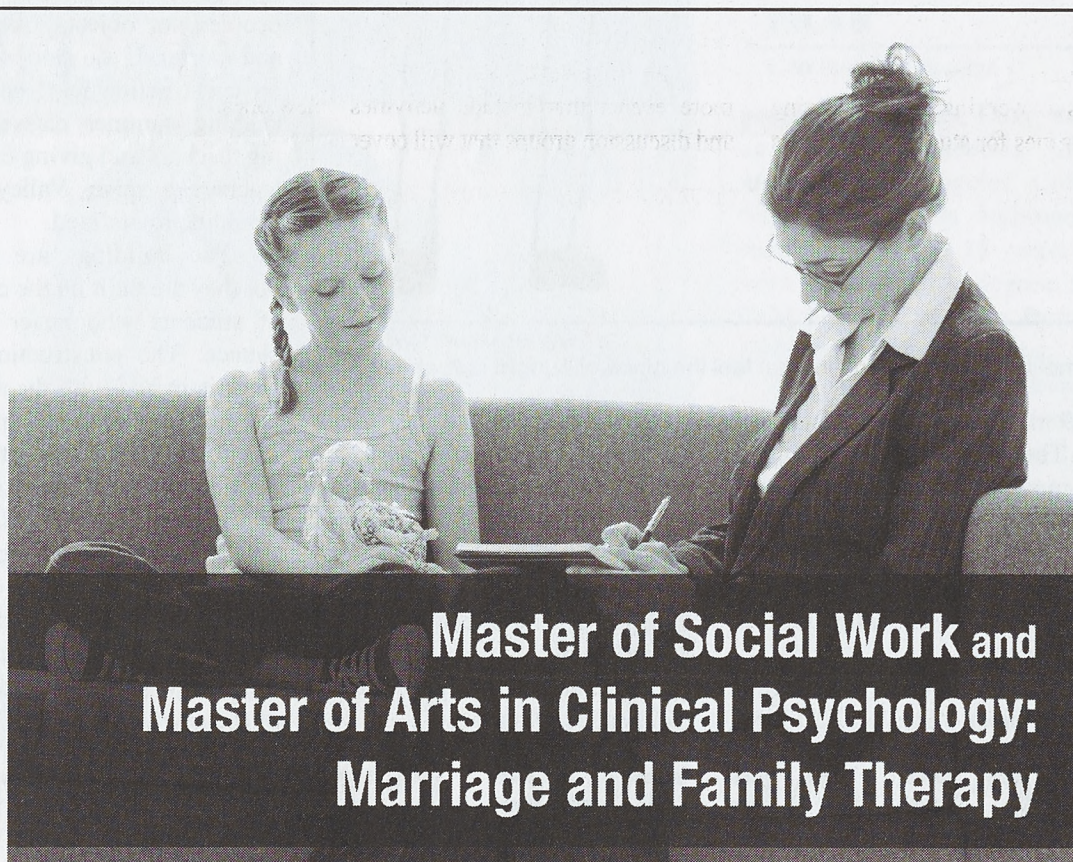
All of the imagery from her

pieces invites the viewer to challenge their pre-conceived ideas and projections and cultivate their own perspective, according to the Chinese American Museum's curator, Steven Wong.

"This show is about presenting alternative views to Chinatown, which is a vibrant community that goes beyond restaurants and trinkets," said Wong. "The work of professor Huynh appropriates some of those stereotypes in an effort to break them down."

Besides teaching and having her work featured at the Chinese American Museum, Huynh is also a co-curator of the upcoming show, "Translations: Artists of the Metro Orange Line," that opens Oct. 11 at the LAVC Art Gallery.

For more information about the exhibit, "(de)Constructing Chinatown" on display at the Chinese American Museum, please visit camla.org. For Valley College Art Gallery information, visit lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.



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LAVC ASTRONOMY GROUP SETS ITS GAZE ON INFORMING THE PUBLIC

The Planetarium is not just for astronomy students. Other Valley College students and the community can benefit from it, too.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Valley College students and the campus' surrounding neighbors looking for an affordable and exciting activity can look to the stars for a night of fun through the LAVC Astronomy Group's weekend lectures and shows.

Valley's Planetarium is equipped with the latest technology, making it the perfect place to have astronomy lectures and shows that allow students to gain knowledge about the outside world.

"I think the Planetarium has a lot to offer to Valley students," said aerospace engineer major Jaime Lopez. "Whether it's shows about life outside of our world or finding out where constellations are, it is a great resource for students."

The LAVC Astronomy Group will present one Planetarium show every month this fall semester. The shows are not only for students but are also open to everyone in the community. Admission for the group's shows are \$6 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens, group members and Valley students with paid ASO activity cards, while kids 8 to 16 cost \$4.

The first astronomy lecture of the semester, "The 2012 Myth and

Family Lecture," took place Sept. 9 and was sponsored by Valley's earth sciences department. All Planetarium shows are held on Friday and Sunday nights.

It is advised that when planning to attend a Planetarium event to show up early to guarantee a seat.

"The planetarium shows do tend to sell out," said astronomy instructor David Falk. "We only have 46 seats available."

Along with inviting the community to come to the Planetarium shows and lectures, Falk encourages everyone to participate in star parties. Students and star-lovers wishing to attend bring telescopes and view constellations outside the Planetarium.

According to Falk, most star parties involve those in attendance to take a small road trip to Castaic Lake, 45 minutes from Valley. They are held away from the college to reduce the light interference from the city so the sky can be viewed clearly.

"I think they are the perfect way to get a feeling of what astronomy is about," said Lopez. "It is a unique experience when you are out in its element learning about it."

The first Planetarium show of the semester is Friday, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.

Falk encourages everyone who wishes to attend to call the hotline at 818-947-2335 for information on upcoming shows and lectures or visit the group's website, www.lavcastrogroup.org.

FALL PLANETARIUM SHOWS:

SEPT. 21, 8 TO 9 P.M.
OCT. 19, 8 TO 9 P.M.
NOV. 16, 8 TO 9 P.M.
DEC. 7, 8 TO 9 P.M.

VALLEY COLLEGE'S CLUB DAY REFORM COMMITTEE BRINGS RUSH WEEK TO THE CAMPUS

JHANELLE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

The new Club Day Reform Committee is on a mission to generate school spirit and garner interest in the campus among students. Telling by the results of its first project, the committee is off to a good start.

The committee, which works as a liaison between the Associated Student Union and Inter-Club Council, presented Rush Week Sept. 10 through Sept. 13 at Valley College. Twenty clubs gathered for the four-day event to entice students to join them and succeeded in registering more than 30 new members, according to Noelle Andressen, the committee's chair.

"My goal was to unify the students and bring [a sense of] community," said Andressen, who estimates an average of 80 students attended each event.

Valley students showed school spirit at each theme day of Rush Week, dressing in 1950s attire Monday for Blast to the Past Day in Monarch Square and soaking up the sun in grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts Tuesday at the pool for Luau Day.

Luau Day was committee member Jared Kale's favorite event.

"The swimming pool ... was a great idea," said Kale.

Students did their best pirate impressions Wednesday for Pirate Theme Day—which included a costume contest in which the winner took home an iTunes gift card—and to close Rush Week, students watched a movie Thursday in Monarch Hall for the slumber-party themed Pajama Party.

The seven-member committee was created last spring and took



ARGH, MATEY - Eco Advocates club President Emelie Traub sported pirate apparel as she talked with student Josilín Felix about the environment.

effect over summer to develop initiatives for students to join campus clubs.

The committee shaped Rush Week based on the approximately 100 responses it received from distributing surveys that asked students their opinions on Club Day, which typically takes place Wednesdays in Monarch Square. The committee meets with the ASU and ICC to

discuss how to improve club days as well as to share different ways to get students involved in their community.

The committee hopes to bring "unity in the community," according to Andressen, who is also the founder and president of the dance club. The members' mission is to serve the students by working together, giving opportunities for students to express

themselves in one of their interests or talents through Valley clubs.

"I thought Rush Week went wonderful," said dance club member Kelsey Capodiceci, who helped plan the event as a volunteer. "It was very fun and a great way to help new students see all the clubs on campus."

The committee has ideas for more events that include activities and discussion groups that will cover

serious topics and inform students about issues on campus. It is also planning another Rush Week for the spring semester and is handing out student surveys to garner feedback about what changes they would like to see.

Andressen encourages students not only to join clubs but also create new ones.

RED CROSS WANTS VALLEY'S BLOOD

The Red Cross will visit the Valley College campus three times this semester, starting Sept. 24.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

The Red Cross-sponsored blood drive returns to Valley College Sept. 24 with its "bloodmobile" near the Allied Health & Sciences Center to make its first of three visits this fall semester with a new Super Star Donor program under way.

"Throughout the 2012 to 2013 school year, we will monitor the number of times a student donates blood and recognize them at the end of the year at an event sponsored by [Valley's Student] Health Center," said Red Cross representative Cheryl Gonzales.

She also added that at the last blood drive, on April 25, Valley contributed 44 pints, exceeding the drive's goal by 11 pints.

"We're hoping to collect more than 250 pints [this semester]," Gonzales said.

According to Gonzales, the Student Health Center's Physician Assistant Sonia Nodal and Medical Assistant Maria Sandoval created the Super Star Donor program to recognize students who donate blood and encourage others to do the same.

"We are very excited to introduce this program," Nodal said.

The blood drives will allow students to participate in the new program, which will grant certificates and giveaways at a ceremony at the last blood drive in the spring 2013 semester to students who contribute three whole blood donations or two ALYX donations during the 2012 to

2013 school year at Valley.

Unlike standard whole blood donations, which take a pint and separate the blood into categories such as plasma and platelets, ALYX—or double red cell—donations take twice as many red cells but return most of the donor's plasma and platelets, according to the Red Cross.

This type of donation—unlike whole blood donations, which require donors be 17 or older in most states and weigh at least 110 pounds—requires that male participants be at least 5'1" and weigh at least 130 pounds and female donors be at least 5'5" and weigh at least 150. Furthermore, whereas whole blood donors can donate again 56 days later, double red cell donors must wait 112 days before giving more blood.

Apart from intervals between donating, there are other eligibility requirements.

According to the Red Cross, travelers must wait a year before donating if they visited a locale with malaria, and those who lived in countries with malaria must wait three years after leaving the country before they can give blood. Those who were born or lived in certain parts of West Africa are also not eligible to donate due to HIV precautions.

As far as tattoos go, Gonzales said that "if the tattoo is more than a year old, they can donate."

She also added that people with piercings must wait at least one year before donating blood.

Although spring 2013 is months away, the two other visits that will occur this semester will be in Monarch Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 23 and Nov. 14. For more information regarding blood-donating eligibility, visit www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood.

SMALLER VENUES PUT A SMALLER DENT IN WALLETS

Students on a budget have plenty of options of venues that feature concerts for less than \$20.

JENNA BUMGARDNER
STAFF WRITER

Concerts are a surefire way to have fun, but they become significantly less fun when they leave your pockets empty. Students on a budget don't often have the money to splurge on a concert at the Hollywood Bowl or The Greek Theatre. Smaller, lesser-known venues in Los Angeles will give students more bang for their buck—and they'll even be able to see the band members' faces—this fall for less than \$20.

Origami Vinyl doubles as a record label and store. The Echo Park venue's white walls, high ceilings, and low-hanging lights make it feel almost like an art gallery, especially with the colorful records displayed along the walls like paintings. All of their in-store shows are free and open to all ages. Check out the two-piece, "brat-punk" band Slutever at Origami on Sep. 30.

At Pehrspace three blocks south of Echo Park, the hipsters come out at night. It's a small, unassuming art gallery by day and a colorful venue by night. Bands play behind an ever-changing backdrop of art. All shows at Pehrspace are \$5. Scrounge up some change and see jungle-garage trio Gothic Tropic at an all-ages show on Sep. 24.

The Bootleg Theater is a 1930s warehouse-turned-venue. Lushes will be excited to know



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

that the Westlake venue boasts a full bar. Unfortunately, this means that most shows at the Bootleg are 21 and older. So, minors should make a mental note about this location until their 21st birthdays. The Bootleg Theater, as well as The Satellite, both have Monday night residencies that are always 21 and older and always free. The veteran avant-garde rock band Autolux will play at The Bootleg for \$15 on Sep. 19.

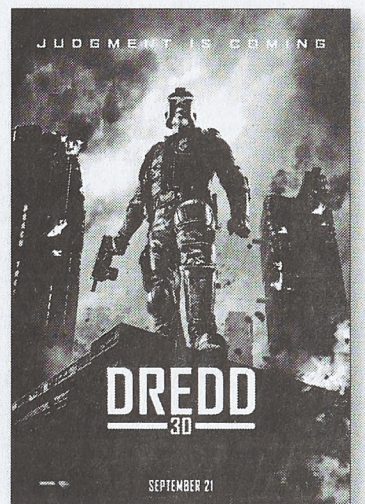
There is something very retro about The Satellite. The interior looks like it was inspired by a 1970s prom, complete with a disco ball and sparkly curtains hanging from the walls. The Satellite, formerly known as Spaceland, features a full bar as well as a photo booth. Shows at this Silverlake venue range from free to \$15 and are always 21 and older. Electronic music fans

should check out The Album Leaf on Sep. 29 for \$15. The experimental pop trio Brainstorm is playing a free show Oct. 29.

The Smell will not be as popular with the boozers; the venue is alcohol and drug free and renowned for its sweaty, moshy punk shows. Avoid this Downtown spot if you're claustrophobic or sensitive to the heat, as there are usually mosh pits and never any air conditioning—but that's why The Smell is about as punk as it gets. Stop by The Smell on Sep. 28 to see Golden!Age for \$5; a heavy garage rock band whose drummer is Valley College's own Connor Schwab, a photography major. For a complete list of concerts in the Los Angeles area, visit losangeles.ohmyrockness.com

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- MAROON 5: ONE MORE NIGHT
- CHRISTINA AGUILERA: YOUR BODY
- FUN.: SOME NIGHTS

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- DEAD KENNEDYS: SEPT. 20 HOUSE OF BLUES SUNSET
- JASON CASTRO: SEPT. 20 ROXY THEATRE
- BONNIE RAITT: SEPT. 22 GREEK THEATRE
- LADYHAWKE: SEPT. 24 THE ECHOPLEX
- LOCAL H: SEPT. 24 THE TROUBADOUR
- THE KNOCKS: SEPT. 25 THE EL REY THEATRE
- ARMY NAVY: OCT. 5 THE TROUBADOUR

BEYOND THE GAME

Jim Fenwick focuses on ways to integrate student-athletes with the rest of Valley.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

Athletic Director Jim Fenwick started connecting student-athletes with the rest of Valley College through promoting campus spirit at home games and creating a varsity athletics club this semester.

One of Fenwick's main goals as athletic director is to enhance the student-athlete experience by creating a sense of community between them and the school. He plans on bringing everyone together via home games and the new Varsity Athletic Leadership Council Organization, nicknamed VALCO.

The incipient club, which held its first meeting earlier this month, is open to ideas that will help create a more well-rounded experience for student-athletes. Although Fenwick has a number of activities in mind, he is looking for feedback and input from others to help the club grow.

"We want to discuss things, anything we want to do within the campus," Fenwick said, "[such as] pull together a day where the students would wear their jerseys and help pick up trash and clean."

Although he has suggestions for activities he thinks will create good experiences for his faculty, athletes and the rest of the campus, Fenwick also said he wants to hear what activities the athletes have in mind so the club is a collaborative effort.

"We put together this athletics club where everybody can

come up with some ideas and help ... get the support and Valley pride built one step at a time," Fenwick said.

Water polo coach Jim McMillan also looks forward to the varsity club's increased student-athlete interaction, mentioning the importance of building connections.

"I think it's a good thing that it's going to help athletes from other teams come together ... VALCO will help the athletes become more recognized," McMillan said, referring to how the club intends to—in addition to bringing together athletes from different teams—make the campus more aware of the students' increased integration into the school.

Aside from the new club,

Fenwick will rely on home games as another approach to bring athletes together with other students and faculty, already having promoted the campus's first home football game with free T-shirts and a raffle.

"There were three students who were very happy," said Fenwick. "They won the Android, and they couldn't believe it."

To keep the incentives going, Fenwick and other sports department members plan to continue promoting home games, especially the last home football game of the year—the Hall of Fame game.

"We're trying to find ways to utilize every game to do something," Fenwick said.

The next home football game will be Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. against the Santa Barbara Vaqueros.

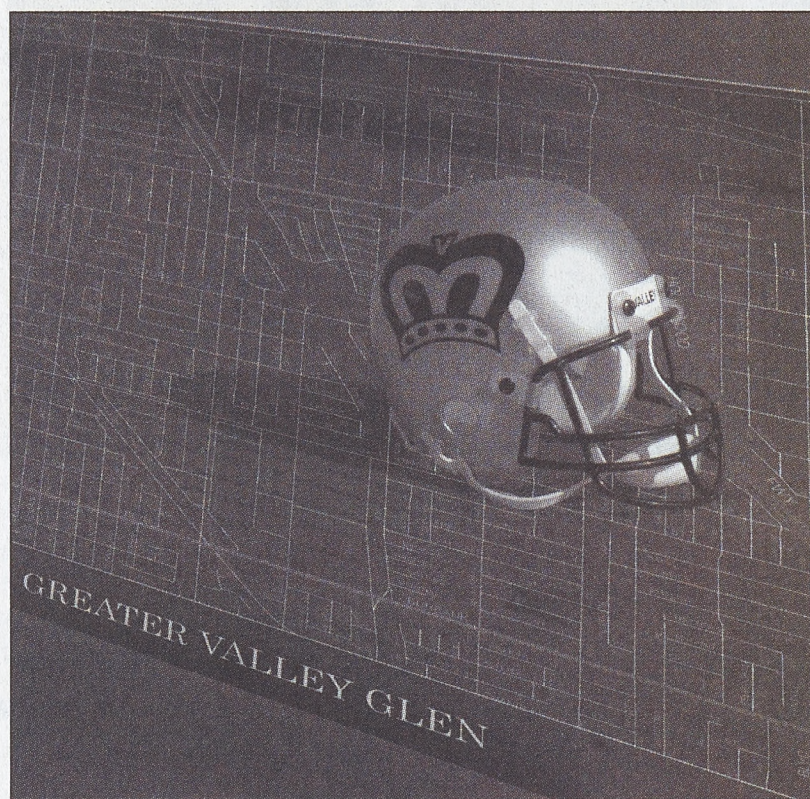


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORRIS DE LA ROCA | VALLEY STAR

BEYOND THE FIELD - Newly appointed Athletic Director Jim Fenwick aims to create a sense of community beyond the field for student-athletes.



LORAINA AMEDEN | VALLEY STAR

SAVED - Monarch Savannah Ajar takes another shot on goal after scoring two for Valley in the first half.

VALLEY'S LADY MONARCHS COLLECT FIRST WIN OF SEASON

The Valley College Women's soccer team collected its first win of the season this past Friday after defeating Compton College.

In the first half of the game the Monarchs had multiple attacks on Compton's keeper. The Tartar's defense allowed Valley to take a 2-1 lead at half time.

"It finally happened, and we started off strong," said Savannah Ajar, who scored both goals in the first half.

As the game progressed, the Lady Monarchs continued their offensive attack, scoring two more goal in the second half and securing a 4-1 victory.

The Monarchs next game is away on Sept. 14 against Antelope Valley College.



LORAINA AMEDEN | VALLEY STAR

TAKE A SHOT - Valley forward Cindy Garcia gets ahead of the defense to go one on one with Compton's goal keeper, but the shot was stopped.

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MONARCHS WELCOME NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH TO COMMUNITY

Colorado State assistant head coach now leads the Valley College Monarchs.

JULIO FLORES
STAFF WRITER

The Larry Kerr era begins. He joined the Valley College football program as head coach and brings an impeccable résumé, having coached at Division I schools such as UCLA and Stanford.

"He was in the pool of people that we interviewed," said Valley's Athletic Director Jim Fenwick. "There were lots of candidates; he seemed to be the best fit for us."

Before coming to Valley, Kerr was at Colorado State University, where he was an assistant coach and defensive coordinator. He's been coaching the young Monarchs team for only a few weeks but brings more than 35 years of experience to the program.

Kerr has had a lot of success in his career. In his first season with UCLA as a defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, the Bruins defense ranked second in the Pac-10.

The new Monarchs coach has a philosophy that he instills in his players similar to UCLA basketball coach John Wooden. His foundation of training his players leans on being faithful, available and teachable. The players picked 10 leaders to further incorporate values into the team. The leaders are responsible to help build on the foundation set by coach Kerr.

"Faithful" is belief in yourself, your team and the coaches. He stresses to his players the importance of being on time, hav-

ing an open mind and being ready to learn both on and off the field. He feels his philosophy will help his players in real life situations.

"If we can have that kind of chemistry and unity as a football team, that's a huge thing," said Kerr. "You never stop learning; that's the foundation I'm trying to build."

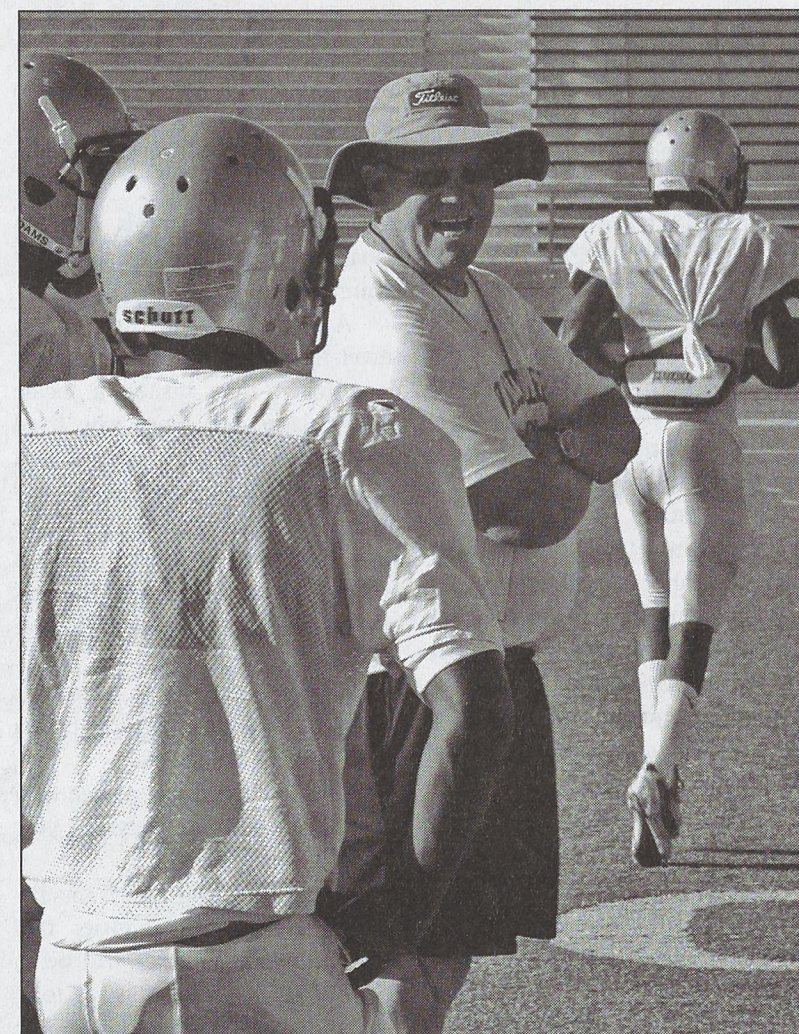
Kerr's mentors include Jack Elway, whom he coached under for 10 years and Sonny Lubick from Colorado State, whom he coached under for 9 years. They won six championships and were in seven bowls, including the

Liberty and Holiday Bowl.

"We're fortunate to have somebody of that caliber," said Fenwick. "The players will get firsthand knowledge of what it takes to play college football."

Considering Kerr's experience, defensive end Marcus Gilmore is looking forward to seeing how far the coach will take them this season.

"Coach Kerr is dedicated [and] tough," said Gilmore, who also goes by the nickname "Happy." "But in the long run, if he gets us to a bowl game, it's good."



RAY BLUMHORST | VALLEY STAR

SET UP SHOP - Larry Kerr practices with his new pack as head of Monarchs football.